

Council Plan 6 Month Progress Snapshot

1 July to 31 December 2017

This is a snapshot of the work Surf Coast Shire Council is doing to deliver its Council Plan 2017 – 2021. The Council Plan is a joint Council and community strategic plan for the four year term of the Council.

The plan identifies areas where Council is endeavouring to make a significant difference and identifies a series of objectives arranged across five themes:

- **Community Wellbeing**
- **Environmental Leadership**
- **Balancing Growth**
- **Vibrant Economy**
- **High Performing Council**

Community Wellbeing

Community project development process

Strategic Objective: Support people to participate in and contribute to community life

Council has introduced a process for scoping and funding community projects, with 14 projects investigated to ascertain their feasibility. Projects included: Expansion of the outdoor space at Jan Juc Pre School; upgrade of training lights at Ellimatta Reserve Anglesea; Stribling Reserve stadium ventilation; redevelopment of the equestrian clubrooms at Mt Moriac Reserve and new netball shelters at Anglesea Netball Club

Youth Pod

Strategic Objective: Provide support for people in need

A mobile youth pod was launched in Winchelsea in December 2017. The youth pod means Council's youth team can maintain a presence in townships across

the shire. It also create opportunities for local young people to connect with each other and access services in a youth friendly environment. The pod can host outreach services for other youth agencies, operate as a local youth hang out space, serve as a training room and a space for youth groups to meet. The youth pod was established with help from Lions Clubs and local businesses.

Small Grants Program

Strategic Objective: Support people to be healthy and active

The Small Grants Program distributed grants totalling more than \$39,000 to 18 community groups. Recipients of the September 2017 small grants round attended a celebration at the Council Chambers in December. The Small Grants Program has been operating for approximately 20 years and supports community groups to fulfil their goals. The program is available to new and existing groups.





Other progress:

- Improving disability access at Moriac Kindergarten
- High tea at 2017 Victorian Seniors Festival
- New Kurrabee Myaring Community Centre nearing completion

Environmental Leadership



Rural Hinterland Strategy

Surf Coast Shire has approximately 1000sq km of rural hinterland which includes agricultural districts and small farming towns, with Winchelsea the main rural service centre.

In 2017 Council sought community feedback on a rural hinterland issues and opportunities paper and is now preparing a draft Rural Hinterland Strategy.

The goal is for rural land to be used productively and sustainably, while retaining its environmental values.

Surf Coast renewable energy profile

Strategic Objective: Drive the use of renewable energy

The energy we consume that's generated from coal is polluting and contributing to dangerous climate change. Currently the Surf Coast community generates an estimated 9% of its energy from clean renewable sources such as solar.

The Surf Coast Energy Profile project will tell us how much energy our community uses, if it is renewable, who is using it and where and when they do. This information will be used to guide programs aimed at reducing our climate change impacts through energy efficiency and renewable generation.



Installation of water bottle refill stations

All new drinking fountains to be installed in the shire will incorporate a water bottle filling point. This feature aims to encourage people to use refillable bottles and reduce the use of single use plastic bottles.

Other progress:

- Use of recycled materials in infrastructure projects
- Supporting community groups to transition from single use plastic bags
- Local Food Program discussion paper available for community feedback

Balancing Growth

Anglesea Futures collaboration

Strategic Objective: Ensure infrastructure is in place to support existing communities and provide for growth

Anglesea Futures is an ongoing collaboration between Council, the Anglesea community, State Government and Alcoa to plan for appropriate future land uses, river management and National Park creation following the closure of the Anglesea coal mine and power station. A related project is the investigation of options for the future of the Anglesea Bike Park which operates on land owned by Alcoa.



Delivering major infrastructure projects

Strategic Objective: Ensure infrastructure is in place to support existing communities and provide for growth

Several critical road infrastructure projects have been completed, including the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Horseshoe Bend and South Beach Road, and the widening of Blackgate Road east of Horseshoe Bend Road.

There were 158 capital projects in progress in the first half of the financial year.

Adoption of Spring Creek Precinct Structure Plan

Strategic Objective: Ensure infrastructure is in place to support existing communities and provide for growth

The adoption of the planning scheme amendment to include the Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) for the Spring Creek Urban Growth area was a significant milestone in the planning for Torquay's future growth. Development in the Spring Creek area has been a much debated issue and Council has worked closely with the community to reach agreement on a Precinct Structure Plan which contains aspirational land use planning outcomes for the community.

Vibrant Economy

G1 Agribusiness Strategy

Strategic Objective: Support key industry sectors such as surfing, tourism, home-based, construction and rural businesses

Council participated in a regional analysis of agribusiness to support regional agriculture. The G21 Sustainable Agribusiness Strategy aims to help grow agriculture related businesses in the region. Approximately 94% of the hinterland area in Surf Coast Shire is Farming Zone.



Torquay Town Centre project

Strategic Objective: Strengthen the vitality of town centres

The underlying purpose of this project is to ensure the town centre is equipped to meet the needs of a growing population, and protect the town's relaxed coastal feel. The project identifies the town centre as the primary activity centre of Torquay and aims to build a pedestrian-friendly space that strengthens the connection between the central business district and the Torquay foreshore.



Facilitation of major events

Strategic Objective: Facilitate high quality events throughout the year

In the first half of 2017 – 2018 several major events were facilitated including:-

- Surf Coast Century (September),
- Amy's Grand Fondo (Sept),
- Drink Art Food Torquay (DAFT) Festival (October),
- Falls Festival (December),
- New Year's Eve Fireworks (December).

Complementing the major events program were many community based events which add to the way of life of our townships. Events generate more than \$105 million in economic benefit. Each year over 240,000 people participate and view events. Globally Surf Coast events reached an audience of more than 32 million people.

Other progress:

- Pre-planning liaison for CORA Elite Sports Training Facility proposal
- Australian National Surfing Museum visitation increase

High Performing Council

Advocating for our community

Strategic Objective: Ensure Council is financially sustainable and has the capability to deliver strategic objectives

Council's advocacy program identifies priority projects for potential state and federal funding. The projects fit within three strategic areas – The Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy, Towards Environmental Leadership and Building Our Future.

Projects include the Great Ocean Road Gateway Experience which aims to capitalise on Torquay's position as the official start of the Great Ocean Road, a multi-purpose indoor stadium in the north of Torquay, an upgrade of the Surf Coast Walk and improvements to Stribling Reserve in Lorne.

Council applied for 18 grants for over \$6 million of government funding support in the past six months. Many of the applications are still being considered but successes have included funding for youth engagement, Bells Beach Reserve, Winchelsea Netball Pavilion and Spring Creek planning support.



Planning reforms

Strategic Objective: Provide quality customer service that is convenient, efficient, timely and responsive

Council has continued to reform its handling of planning applications. The latest data captured by the Victorian Government's Know Your Council website shows the average time to decide planning applications at Surf Coast Shire Council has dropped to 48 days compared to 60 days for similar sized Councils and 73 days for all Victorian Councils. Additional resources and streamlined processes are behind the improved results. A new online planning system will improve the customer experience further.

Business Improvement program

Strategic Objective: Ensure the community has access to the services they need

Reviews of Council services continue to ensure best value for the community. During the reporting period Council completed its review of Council's vacation care program. YMCA will now provide a school holiday program out of the Torquay Coast Primary School.

In the same period Council transferred the ownership and operation of independent living units in Winchelsea to Hesse Rural Health, following a comprehensive service review and community engagement.

Other progress:

- Established Customer Experience program
- New draft Domestic Animal Management Plan